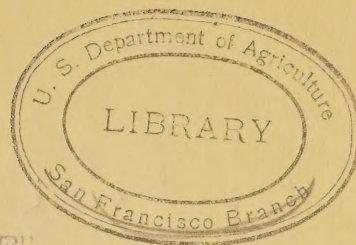


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YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW -

Five Hundred Low-Income Farm Families In Wartime

Summarized from 1941-42 Annual Reports of Twenty
Farm Security Administration Farm and Home Supervisors

By

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Washington, D. C.
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NOTES

This is a summary of the annual reports for 1941-42 of the farm and home supervisors in 10 counties in which the Farm Security Administration has undertaken an experiment to provide intensive supervision to about 500 needy farm families who were unable to qualify for the regular FSA rehabilitation program. The supervisors' report covered a part of the year following Pearl Harbor. Thus, the present summary, in addition to describing supervisory methods that are in use shows that these once-needy families are now contributing food and manpower for the Nation's war effort and are making progress in their own personal struggle for freedom from want as well.

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By

RACHEL HOWE SWIGER 1/
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INTRODUCTION

Wasted manpower and wasted productive capacity are being eliminated among 500 low-income farm families participating in a special Farm Security Administration project conducted in 10 different counties throughout the United States. Designed to help these disadvantaged farm families free themselves from poverty and attain a better way of living, today this program is enabling them to aid the Nation in securing freedom and a better way of life for all.

The economic condition of the families participating in the program was originally such that they could not qualify for assistance under the regular FSA programs. The productivity of these families had been sabotaged consistently by inadequate cropland, livestock, and equipment, plus poor housing, malnutrition, and disease. Their potential productivity, as a rule, was discounted or not recognized by their more prosperous neighbors who looked on them as "No'er-do-wells."

Since the inception of the program in March 1941, several accounts of the activities of this group have been written. 2/ This report, which summarizes the progress made by these families during the 1941-42 crop-year, is designed to show the part they are playing in the Nation's war effort. Given financial assistance and educational guidance in new and more efficient farm practices, they have made a tremendous increase in their production since coming into the program. The adjustments made during the year to meet war needs are particularly noteworthy. It is significant that as waste is eliminated and productivity increased, leadership and initiative are developed.

1/ Rachel Howe Swiger was a social science worker in the Farm Security Administration until October 1, 1942.

2/ Conrad Taeuber and Rachel Howe - Five Hundred Families Rehabilitate Themselves, February, 1941. Rachel Howe Swiger and Conrad Taeuber - They Grow Produce For Victory, March 1942. Rachel Howe Swiger and Conrad Taeuber - Solving Problems Through Cooperation, March, 1942. Rachel Howe Swiger and Conrad Taeuber - Ill Fed, Ill Clothed, Ill Housed - Five Hundred Families in Need of Help, April, 1942.

TO FURNISH FOOD

These families, many of whom were on relief rolls before coming into the program, have emerged from the shadows of yesterday's breadlines to take their place in the Nation's food production line. Four years ago they could not produce or buy food in sufficient quantity and variety to maintain and protect health. Many had never had a garden or owned a cow. Some had to learn to drink milk, and how to milk and care for the cow as well. The experience of all families in producing and preserving foods was limited. With assistance they have improved their own dietary standards and in many instances are producing a surplus of food that goes to help feed America and its allies.

Before coming on the program in 1938, project families in Laurens County, Ga. canned an average of only 42 quarts of food per family, whereas during 1941-42 crop-year these same families canned an average of 381 quarts, an increase of 678 percent. ^{1/} In 1938, approximately nine-tenths of the families were without milk cows; by 1942 less than one-tenth were without cows and most of the families had as many as two. The average number of hogs owned by the families in 1938 was only one, with one-third having none; by 1942 all families owned one or more and the average for the group was 7 per family. During the same period the number of chickens increased from 27 to 52, the production of dried peas and beans increased from an average of 38 pounds to 450 pounds per family, and syrup from 13 to 34 gallons. In 1938, less than half of the families had gardens and used fresh home-produced foods an average of only 2 months of the year. During the last crop-year all the families grew a 12-months garden and had fresh home-produced food throughout the year.

Aside from producing an adequate food supply these Georgia families have now acquired the equipment and knowledge that enables them to prepare it properly. In 1938, not a single family had ever owned or operated a pressure cooker or a hand mill. Today all the families own pressure cookers and know how to use them in canning and preparing nourishing hot meals. Hand mills are almost as popular as the pressure cookers which are prized so highly by the families that they are referred to as "precious cookers." The families use the hand mills to make their own peanut butter, to grind corn meal and whole wheat flour and, to chop feed for their chickens and livestock. The project supervisors feel that it is now easy for the families to plan well-balanced and nourishing diets. As they have been encouraged to produce a greater variety of foods care has been taken to follow through to see that the families know how to prepare and use these foods. At a food-demonstration meeting held at the beginning of the program, seven of the homemakers had never seen carrots and others had never eaten them. At another meeting held a year later a group consisting of approximately the same families were asked to name some food they now enjoyed that they did not like or eat before coming into the program. The most frequent answer was "creamed carrots."

In Orange County, Vt., the project families carried out a much larger canning and storage program during the year than during any previous period before or since coming into the program. The average cash value of home products consumed on the farm before acceptance was \$166. In 1940 the amount increased to \$441, and by 1941 a further increase to \$479 had occurred.

^{1/} Most of the farming activities of families discussed in this report begin with the planting season during March of each year. Hence, in measuring progress made by them from year to year, the crop-year from March 1 through February 28 is used. This is the period meant in this report by the terms "crop-year" and "year."

The increase in production and preservation of food since the inception of the program: is shown in Table 1.

Table 1.- Average production for home consumption per family during specified periods; Orange County, Vt.

Item	: Before ac- : ceptance on : FSA program	: Crop-year : 1941 - 1942
Canned tomatoes, vegetables & fruits (qts)	: 88	249
Pigs butchered (number)	: 0.2	2
Beef or veal butchered (number)	: —	1
Poultry (pounds)	: 6	43
Root vegetables stored (bushels)	: 1	4
Green vegetables stored (pounds)	: 9	84
Squash stored (pounds)	: 14	48
Dried beans (bushels)	: 1	2
Stored fruits (bushels)	: 2	5
Potatoes (bushels)	: 21	48
Dried fruits (pounds)	: 1	4
Maple syrup (gallons)	: —	7
Milk used daily (pints)	: 3	5
Eggs used per week (dozen)	: 0.5	2

In San Miguel County, N. Mex., an average of only 33 quarts per family was canned the year previous to coming into the program. During the last crop-year an average of 325 quarts per family was canned, or a total increase of 885 per-cent. During the same period the quantity of stored foods increased from an average of 21 pounds per family to 491 pounds, or a total increase of 2,238 per-cent. The families are now raising their own bread and cereal supply, have their wheat processed into whole grain flour, and their white and blue corn made into different grades of meal to be used for mush, tortillas, and tamales. At the inception of the program only 5 families had milk cows; now 34 families have cows producing sufficient milk for home use. Families who cannot keep cows usually obtain their milk supply by milking one or two goats. During the last year flocks of 25 to 30 chickens have been doubled and families who previously kept only one hog are now raising two or more.

Project families in Thurston County, Wash., canned an average of only 30 quarts of food per person the year previous to coming on the program, whereas during the crop-year 1941-42 an average of 112 quarts per person was canned. The progress that has been made in food preservation is brought out in Table 2.

Table 2.- Average quantity of foods, canned, frozen, or stored per family during specified periods: Thurston County, Washington.

Item	: 1940 - 1941 crop-year	: 1941-1942 crop-year
Canned and frozen vegetables (qts):	86	96
Canned meats (quarts) :	19	24
Canned and frozen fruits (quarts):	133	163
Stored vegetables (pounds) :	418	646
Stored fruits (pounds) :	186	193
Frozen meats (pounds) :	176	378

The percentage increase in the output production of food in Beltrami County, Minn., during the 1941-42 crop-year, over that of 1940-41 is as follows: milk and cream 24 percent; lean meat 30 percent; eggs 15 percent; potatoes 67 percent; other vegetables 39 percent, and potatoes 8 percent. An indication of the increase in production that has taken place since the beginning of the program is found in the average number of months in which fresh home-produced food (canned not included) was available and consumed during the 12 months before coming into the program, as compared with the 1941-42 crop-year (Table 3.).

Table 3.- Average number of months fresh home-produced food was available and consumed during specified periods, Beltrami County, Minnesota.

Item	Period	
	July 1937-July 1938	July 1941-July 1942
	(Number months)	(Number months)
Milk	9.0	11.9
Butter	5.3	11.0
Meat	3.3	8.6
Eggs	4.9	8.9
Green vegetables	6.8	9.5
Other vegetables	8.4	10.8

That the families themselves are aware of the improvement in their diets is found in the following quotations, "We are not as hungry for things as we used to be. We don't crave certain things any more." "This is the first year we have ever had enough vegetables to last to the next garden season."

The majority of the families in Knox County, Ky., have doubled or more than doubled their production of food during the year. For example, one family of 6, who canned 210 quarts of foods in 1940, canned 500 quarts in 1941. Another family of 8, who canned only 70 quarts in 1939, canned 240 quarts in 1941, and in addition stored 75 bushels of potatoes, 2 bushels of beets, 5 bushels of apples, 80 pounds of dried apples, 32 gallons sulphured apples, 80 pounds of dried beans, and $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of dried sweetpotatoes.

In Grayson County, Va. the average number of quarts of food canned per family the year before coming into the program was only 216; the average in 1941 was 421 quarts. One family, who canned only 77 quarts before, canned 251 quarts in 1941. To conserve cans this family refilled fruit and vegetable jars with winter apples and meats as soon as they were emptied.

All but two project families in this area produced sufficient corn meal for home use during the year; before this, most of the corn meal was purchased. Although the climate and soil are not suitable for profitable yields of wheat, several families raised a sufficient quantity for their bread supply last year. The quantity beans dried for home use increased from an average of 18 pounds per family to 33 pounds per family during the 1941-42 crop-year.

The striking increase in production in all counties indicates that these poverty-stricken families were formerly operating far below their capacity. This appears particularly significant at present when it is a wartime necessity that the efforts of every farm family throughout the country be completely mobilized to help meet the growing demand for more food.

MEETING WARTIME NEEDS

Given an opportunity to make the most of their inherent capabilities, these families not only have demonstrated a capacity for producing a better living for themselves; they have also shown noticeable initiative in making adjustments which have strengthened their ability to contribute more effectively to the war effort.

Supervisors in Laurens County, Ga., report that almost all of the project families are eager to produce a greater quantity of food and livestock to aid in winning the war. During the 1941-42 crop-year all the project families planted an average of 7 acres of peanuts, whereas during the previous crop-year less than half raised peanuts - the average number of acres planted by the group was only 1.5. As shown in table 4 the production of livestock and poultry has been stepped up also.

Table 4-- Total number of livestock and poultry owned by 50 families in Laurens County, Georgia, during specified periods.

Crop-year	Cows	Bred : heifers	Other : heifers	Male : calves	Sows	Pigs and : shoats	Hens
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1940-1941	71	23	26	22	91	506	1,508
1941-1942	91	16	40	42	115	597	2,408

Every family raises dent corn, amber cane, millets, and rape for their hogs, cows, and poultry. Small hand mills are used to grind livestock feed which the families mix themselves. The new practice of raising feed has cut farm operating expenditures and provided better balanced rations for the livestock and poultry.

Several families are raising turkeys to sell. Last year one family sold \$65 worth during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Another bought two turkey hens and a rooster in the spring, and was able to sell enough turkey during the winter to buy an ice box and winter clothes for the family of five.

Three years ago no project family was producing sufficient meat for its own use. Aside from producing enough for home use during the last year, 19 families produced a surplus of cured meat. One family sold \$283 worth of hogs, and now has 22 pigs and shoats, 2 grade brood sows, one registered brood sow, and one registered male for breeding purposes. At the time this family came into the program they owned only 2 scrub shoats. Another family sold \$65 worth of hogs, in addition to producing sufficient meat for their family of eight, and now has 14 pigs and 3 good brood sows.

Twenty-one families produced sirup for sale, fourteen who started on the program with one cow have increased their herds sufficiently to provide an adequate supply of dairy products for their own use and a surplus of cream to sell. 4

number of the families traded male calves and older cows for younger and better milk cows. Others sold male calves and used the money to buy needed items such as new stoves, dentures, and glasses.

One borrower has used an out-dated anvil forge, sledge hammer, and tire shrinker to do considerable blacksmith work for neighboring borrowers and other farmers. This work was done during his spare time, or when weather conditions did not permit him to work crops. Aside from saving the other farmers money and a good deal of time, which they would have lost in making trips to town, the borrower earned enough to pay his current taxes. He also built a very good one-horse wagon with wheels from one place, an axle from another, and a few other ends picked up here and there.

Rather than spend cash for hoe handles many of the families are using straight young hickory saplings for this purpose. Watering troughs for livestock are being made from hollowed-out cypress blocks. These troughs do not decay easily and are proving satisfactory.

In Knox County, Ky., the war has been instrumental in bringing about changes in the normal activities of the project families. They have all responded well to the Nation's call for increased production of certain products and foodstuffs. When informed that the country needed hempseed, nine of the families voluntarily agreed to produce this crop even though its production was new to them. In addition to raising hempseed two families are producing castor beans for the first time. If these families are successful in the growing of these two products, other families will produce them next year.

A considerable number of the project families are reducing their farm operating expenses by saving cover-crop legume and grass seeds instead of buying them each year as before. Aside from reducing operating costs this will enable these families to have a higher quality seed and will assure them a sufficient supply. In some cases the families had enough for their own use, plus a surplus to sell. Several families are raising wheat to provide enough flour for home use. For example, one family who raised wheat for the first time threshed 54 bushels this year from which they will save a 2 year supply of flour. In addition, they will have a considerable quantity of wheat shorts as a byproduct to feed their livestock. Another family saved 8 bushels of turnip seed. The seed was sold to project families at a much lower price than it could have been bought elsewhere. A number of the families have produced enough small grains for themselves plus a surplus for sale.

Almost every family on the project has increased its production of livestock and poultry. Each family now has at least 2 cows and a poultry flock consisting of from 35 to 75 hens. A total of 24 families produced a surplus of poultry and poultry products for sale.

Families are taking better care of their machinery and farm equipment. To reduce expenses they are taking their machinery to a nearby training school where all repair work is done at cost (labor is not included in cost, only the materials used).

In San Miguel County, N. Mex., several practices have been introduced to facilitate adjustment to wartime economy. Several families are raising rabbits

to supplement their own meat supply and for the market as well. To supplement their sugar supply each family raised sorghum cane for syrup. Peanuts and winter-resistant chiles were grown and marketed locally. Most families had a surplus of beans for sale. Blue corn was processed into meal and sold in local grocery stores at 12 cents a pound or exchanged for twice as much wheat flour. Many of the families increased their income by selling native cedar posts and red-bam.

During the last year, one-half of the project families increased their livestock inventory. This was done by keeping young calves and pigs. Nearly as many saved pullets to increase their poultry flocks. Several are raising turkeys for sale and four-fifths of all the families raised peanuts for marketing. A number of families raised edible soybeans for the first time. All except five produced enough feed for their livestock for the coming year. This compares with 46 families buying feed in 1939, 27 in 1940, and 8 in 1941.

In Grayson County, Va., several families are selling wild herbs. One family sold \$30 worth during the year. A few families sold milk and chickens. The size of farms, topography, and locality of farms make the marketing of surplus products difficult, if not impossible.

The project families in Mercer County W. Va., also are supplementing their meat supply by raising rabbits. This adds variety to their diets and rabbits can be raised more cheaply than poultry or hogs. These families sell the hides from the rabbits to pay for their feed. One family has been successful in raising rabbits as a commercial enterprise. Other project families buy to start raising a supply for home use and the remainder of the rabbits and furs are shipped to a New York market.

Approximately nine-tenths of these West Virginia families are now raising edible soybeans. The quantity of foods canned during last year increased one-third over that of the previous year and the quantity of foods dried and stored was doubled. Most of the families sold eggs and butter. Several sold such products as apple butter, sorghum, wild herbs, and black walnuts. Approximately one-fifth of the families cut and sold mine props.

In Beltrami County, Minn., all the families had a crop surplus to sell. Before coming into the program, the average number of cows owned per family was only 2, whereas by July 1942 these same families owned an average of 6.4 cows per family. A number of families for the first time had a surplus of such products as potatoes, berries, eggs, and alsike and alfalfa seed to sell. These families earned a total of \$4,234, or an average of \$197 each from the sale of wood and timber cut from their farms while not working in crops.

An increase in acreage in one or more crops was reported by 34 families. Ten different crops were raised for the first time by families during the last year. These were: wheat, flax, alfalfa, millet, barley, corn, oats, rutabagas, soybeans, and speltz. More families increased their acreage of feed crops rather than cash crops.

Increases in livestock and poultry enterprises were affected. Twenty-nine families reported an increase in cattle, 12 an increase in the number of sheep, 9 raised more pigs, and 19 have more poultry than during the previous year. A total of 4,555 fence posts were cut for use on the farms where livestock

enterprises were increased and, to offset shortage of wire, split-rail fences were used in increasing the size of pastures and hog lots.

A number of the families preserved ice for year-round use by packing it in sawdust. A total of 996 cords of wood were cut on the farms and used to supply fuel for cooking and heating. Had this fuel been purchased the cost to the families would have been not less than \$2,000, and possibly more.

Most of the families have made more efficient use of time, labor, and equipment by taking better care of equipment, doing their own repairs, and making tools from native materials. All families took better care of equipment last year and all except one made more home on their own equipment, using their own labor and native materials. A total of 23 different varieties of farm and household equipment was made, including such items as the following:

Tongues for sleds, rakes, wagons	Dressing tables
Mower, trailer, and cultivator	Pillows from duck and goose feathers
Handles for hoes, shovels, plows	Upholstering of chairs
Brush hooks, rakes, cultivators	Screen for screen doors
Axes and saws	Frame for folding screen
Trailers	Remodeled beds
Sleighs	Benches for dining table
Hotbeds	Wooden toys for children
Sheep-diving tanks	Corner shelves
Sled rolls	Bedding
Neck yokes	Tank heaters from barrels
Sheep feeders	Stone boat
Beams or bunks in sleighs	Feed box
Remodeled wagons	Hay stacker
Pig troughs	Buck rake
Sleigh runner	Gypsum spreader
Window curtains	Doubletree
Rugs (crocheted and braided)	Singletree
	Smokehouse

In Orange County, Vt., several families raised wheat for the first time, part of which they ground for home use whereas the rest was used for livestock and poultry feed. Popcorn is grown on a commercial scale to supply the local market. It appears likely that several families who have been growing apples will be able to produce a surplus for market in the near future. The production of small fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries, has been expanded as there is a ready market for them throughout the area. Livestock enterprises have been expanded as rapidly as farm resources would permit. Some families are growing soybeans for the first time and during the last year some who previously produced them increased their acreage. The yields of all the project families increased the number of cows kept. One of the families who made American cheese which is very much like the factory-made product. A ready market was found for any surplus. Goat's milk was used locally for the first time in making cheese. Using surplus milk to make cheese for sale does not

we would like to see with long-term leases have to pay as much rent as those living on better land. Then the poorer families would be forced to leave the land and they do not make the improvements they would like to for fear of increased rent or having to move the following year."

All but eight of the project families in Grayson County, Va. own some land although not usually enough to make an economic farm unit. It has been a common practice to rent additional nearby land and cultivate it in such a way as to get everything possible out of it without exhausting the soil. Now, although additional land is rented as usual, the farmers are more likely to check further depletion of the soil. Only three families own enough land to make economic units. They all have Farm Home Improvement loans. The families in this county who do not own any land are operating rented farms under 5-year lease.

In Mercer County, W. Va., a few families have 5-year leases, and in two cases, families who have been operating their farms under 5-year leases now have entered into purchase-contract agreements to buy their farms. It has been difficult to obtain long-term leases in this county because the landlords are always planning to sell their land. In addition to equipment, the families have in carrying out their plans for such things as the desire to remain in the same place from year to year.

In Thurston County, Wash., 13 families who were buying their farms on a contract or a sharecropping basis, were able to complete their purchase by switching to long-term mortgages through the use of Farm Home Improvement loans. Another family, formerly renters bought a place on the contract basis. Eight other families obtained additional land during the last year to complete their farm units, either by leasing outside land or by buying it under the Farm Home Improvement plan.

During the year four families in Orange County, Vt. obtained Farm Home Improvement loans because of pressure for mortgage payments which they were unable to meet. One family was able to buy a farm from a bank without making a down payment; arrangements were made whereby the family could pay the principal from the sale of lumber and pulp. It is believed that such a loan would enable the family to liquidate the mortgage and to make needed repairs on existing buildings as well.

In another Orange County case an adjustment was made that strengthened the security of a family which was faced with the possibility of losing their farm which a mortgage was held by a private individual. In addition to the principal, which amounted to \$440, some interest was due for the year. The family was unable to pay the interest. After spending considerable time negotiating with several firms, the supervisors were able to obtain an advance of \$450 for the family from a bank which agreed to take a first mortgage on the farm for the amount. The balance was paid by selling surplus livestock and approximately 14,000 feet of lumber which was ready for marketing but which could not be sold until the mortgage was reached with the mortgagee. To provide economical farm units some families have bought additional land through Farm Home Improvement loans and six families rented additional crop or pasture land for this purpose. The method used in paying rent varies in these cases from paying cash to giving the owner a few bushels of potatoes. With one exception, the rented land is used for producing additional feed for livestock until the borrowers' own land can be built up to supply adequate feed.

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All the project families in San Miguel County, N. Mex., except two, own land they cultivate. During the last year one of the renters found work in California and the farm he had occupied was leased to another project family. This was done to prevent someone outside the village from obtaining the land and adding another family to an already overpopulated area. None of the other farm units have been added to as all cropland in the area is already under cultivation.

DOCTORS ARE NEEDED

Doctors have been scarce in all project areas. Now, however, many of the project families. Medical care is being received by many of the families for the first time. Services of a doctor, even at the birth of a child, was formerly more than some could afford.

In Orange County, Vt., doctors in the project area were interviewed; the purpose of the program and the families need for more adequate medical care were explained. Now these doctors are taking part in a medical program which provides project families with services they formerly could not afford. The annual fee participation in the medical program ranges from \$16 for a family of two, to \$20 for a family of six or more. The average dues for the year (1942-43) will amount to \$12.25 per family, plus a \$10 fee in cases of confinement. The medical service includes treatment and care in the doctors' offices and in the home, as well as complete physical examinations and checkups from time to time. When ever possible, hospital care is obtained at minimum expense through the use of staff physicians, ward care, and in some instances the use of free beds. No dental program has been developed so far but dentists in the area have made special rates to the project families. Several families have taken courses in Home Nursing through the local Red Cross. Educational meetings held frequently have helped to acquaint the families with a safer and more healthful way of living.

In San Miguel County, N. Mex., 26 families are participating in the medical service association. This service provides ordinary medical care, emergency surgery, hospitalization, and drugs prescribed by the doctors. The annual cost per family is \$30. Aside from routine medical care, during last year 12 cases of female trouble were corrected, 3 cases of pneumonia were cured, 2 emergency operations were performed, and 4 mothers were hospitalized during childbirth. At present, however, benefits accruing from this service are minimized because of lack of transportation facilities to and from the doctors' offices which are located 30 miles from the project. Through interagency councils and personal visits, contacts have been made with county health officers to acquaint them with health problems in the area. The county health department has cooperated in safeguarding the health of project families by conducting periodic clinics for mothers and their babies as well as holding regular classes to provide the mother with information pertaining to the proper care of herself and her family. In addition, a complete immunization program against diphtheria, typhoid, and small-pox for children and adults has been inaugurated.

Forty-six project families in Knox County, Ky. are members of a medical program. The membership fee varies according to the size of the family.

the average annual cost per family being approximately \$15. Only ordinary medical care is provided under this agreement. It does not cover extremely cases, surgery fees, or hospitalizations. At first many of the families were dissatisfied with the service because they failed to receive the attention their contract showed they were entitled to. Some needed doctors at night but were unable to get them; others lived several miles from roads that could be traveled over the year around and were sorely neglected. At a conference between the doctors of the association and the project staff held during the summer of 1941, the complaints made by the members were discussed, and it was decided that the doctors should review all applications for membership and approve only those they felt certain they would be able to visit at any time during the year and give satisfactory service. Since that time better service has been rendered and the families' attitudes toward the service has greatly improved. However, the future success of the medical program is uncertain because at present there are only three doctors in the county and of these one is expecting to be called into the army, another never goes home visiting, and the third will not make night calls.

The county health department in Knox County has been very cooperative. The nurses have visited the families whenever their services were needed, and the entire staff has been helpful in carrying out educational programs for the benefit of the families. Two children of project families have had major physical defects corrected through the efforts of this agency. In one instance, a girl exposed to gonorrhea during birth became blind in one eye. When she was only 2 days old the eyeball began to swell. After a month, the eye continued to swell gradually. The child was taken to a doctor who said the eye would never be any better and if not removed would cause the loss of sight in the other eye. The mother was afraid the child would die from the operation so refused to have anything done. As the child grew older the eyeball continued to protrude - and became more grotesque. She became extremely unhappy, refused to go to school and held her head in such a way as to shield the deformity as best she could from the sight of others. After the family came into the program the supervisor persuaded the mother to take the child to the health office where arrangements were made to have the eye removed by sending the child to the Children's Free Hospital in Louisville, Ky. The only expense to the family was \$6 which they were required to pay toward the purchase of an artificial eye. The child is now in school and normal in her behavior. In the case of a 12 year old boy who had been so severely burned that his face was badly scarred and one hand drawn, the health department arranged for him to go to a clinic which straightened the hand and removed the scar tissue. Preventive work such as vaccinations for contagious diseases is another service that has been provided through the Health Department.

It has been impossible to organize a medical service for project families in Thurston County, Wash. as most of the doctors are not interested in participating. Those who were willing were apparently prevented from doing so by the medical society. Failure to provide a service of this sort has meant that most families have been unable to obtain needed medical care. Vaccinations, immunization, and inoculation services have been provided by the public health department.

Thirty-three families in Reynolds County, Mo. are participating in a medical program. Regardless of size of family, the annual membership fee for such family

is \$23. Of this amount, \$16 is set aside for physician's services, \$5 for surgeon and hospital fees, and \$1 for administrative purposes. Doctors are paid 50 percent of their bill every 3 months, and at the end of the year the accumulated funds are prorated among the doctors and hospitals. When the program was first organized, the participating doctors were doubtful as to its ultimate success. However, after reviewing a detailed report of the activities of the program at the end of the year, they were so pleased that since then they have been instrumental in getting the same type of program organized in other counties. Records at the end of the first year's activities showed that 80 percent of the bills rendered by the physicians had been paid and 100 percent of those rendered by the the surgeons and hospitals had been met. In addition, sufficient funds were left in the surgeon's pool to return \$3.65 to each family. One doctor stated that previously one-half of the services rendered would have been done on a charity basis, and that payments for the remaining work would have been very slow. Aside from providing regular medical care, surgery, and hospitalization services, the program also provides protective services against contagious diseases. Although no dental service has been organized, rates amounting to one-half of the usual price have been obtained for the project families.

Although the State and county medical associations have approved a plan whereby a medical-care program could be put into operation in Mercer County, W. Va., the local doctors refuse to participate on the grounds that they cannot handle the additional practice. However, in most cases they have performed emergency services at relief rates. But this does not mean that the project or other low-income farm families in the county are receiving or have received adequate medical attention other than in emergency cases. The problem of obtaining medical care for these families has become increasingly difficult since Pearl Harbor. Before Pearl Harbor, the rural population of the county was serviced by five doctors; one of these has since died and two others have been called to service. The health problems of these families are further aggravated by the lack of preventive programs. The health doctor died during the year and the county is still without a public health unit.

All project families in Laurens County, Ga., are members of a medical- and dental-care program. The annual membership fee is \$12 for the parents and \$1 for each child. Rates for participation in the dental program are \$3 for parents and 50¢ for each child. The county health nurse in this area has been very cooperative in providing preventive services for these families. She holds clinics near enough to their homes to enable everyone to attend. All families have taken advantage of the services of the clinic which include inoculations and vaccinations against contagious diseases.

All project families in Oglethorpe County, Ga., are participating in a medical and dental program. At the inception of the project they were given a complete physical examination. Most of the major defects discovered then have since been corrected. The average annual cost per family for these services is \$15 for medical care and \$5 for dental work.

A medical-care program was organized in Grayson County, Va., on June 1, 1942. Eighteen of the project families are already participating in this newly organized

service. The annual membership dues average \$26 per family. Grayson county does not have a health officer, but a trained nurse employed by the Lutheran Church serves the community.

A great deal of time and effort have been expended toward organizing a medical-care program in Beltrami County, Minn. After obtaining permission of the State Medical Society to initiate a plan, the local doctors and the FSA staff met to discuss it. After considerable deliberation, the doctors decided to reject the plan.

Considerable corrective as well as preventive work has been done during the year in Beltrami County to improve the health of the project families. Fifty-six people obtained medical treatment, 59 were given dental care, and 19 had new eye glasses. In addition, 23 have had a complete physical examination, 65 were given Mantoux tests, 53 children had health examinations at school, and 70 were immunized for diphtheria and vaccinated for smallpox. The county nurse has been active in educational work for the benefit of these families and has made one or more visits to the homes of 20 project families.

Aside from improving the health of these families, their participation in the medical services has given them a sense of security that has done much to boost their morale. One borrower said, "It means an awful lot to a fellow to just know if he needs a doctor he can get one. Use to be when any of my family got bad sick I had to go out and beg my landlord or somebody else to help me get a doctor because I never had money to pay for one and nothing to offer as security. I remember once I walked nearly all night in a snowstorm trying to find somebody to stand for a doctor for my little girl that was awful sick with pneumonia. By the time I got a doctor it was too late --- she had already choked to death."

TOWARD A BETTER TOMORROW

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend William Temple, has recently said, "every child should find itself a member of a family bound with decency and dignity, so that it may grow up as a member of that basic community in a happy fellowship unspoiled by underfeeding - or overfeeding, by drab surroundings, or by makeshift monotony of environment." To attain this goal much remains to be done throughout the country, but that it can be done is demonstrated by the significant beginning that has been made by these project families.

Underfeeding, once common among these families, is being eliminated through increased production and training in the preparation and preservation of foods.

Native materials and even idle family labor are being used to achieve more crowded living quarters and to effect needed repairs. Only a few families remain unassisted and care has been taken to protect wells and other sources of water supply. Faint, flowers, home inventions, and handicrafts are employed to transfer drab and monotonous surroundings into a more cheerful and livable atmosphere.

Buildings occupied by families in Orange County, Va. at the beginning of the program were in very poor condition. To avoid indebtedness, repairs were planned over a period of years and the most essential ones were made first. The families use native timber; the logs are sawed at a local mill where no cash expense is involved as the bill is paid with lumber. Fieldstones and sand are used with cement in the construction of foundations, cellar walls, and steps. Four families have used cement blocks, which are manufactured nearby, to build chimneys. The blocks cost less than brick and by using them the families can do the work themselves. In some instances families meet individual difficulties in making repairs but there are many problems for which group instruction and discussion will suffice. Families take pride in telling other members of the group what they have accomplished and just how they did a particular job. Through such discussions and exchange of ideas, much worthwhile information is gained. Improvements and repairs made by Orange County families during the 1941-42 crop year included: chimneys built 5; windows constructed 13; rooms painted 19; rooms painted 17; rooms remodeled or enlarged 6; floors repaired 4; ceilings erected 10; walls patched 8; roofing on house repaired or replaced 7; new barns built 2; new stables made 6; silos constructed 4; henhouses built 1, and miscellaneous improvements made, 14.

All houses occupied by project families in San Miguel County, N. Mex. have undergone some interior and exterior improvements since the beginning of the program. In making these improvements the families have worked in groups or assisted work with more skilled operators. Materials used consist of adobe wall, rough timber for beams and rafters, clay for plaster and wall finish, flagstones for walks and porch floors. The only materials bought in making these improvements were lumber for flooring and window frames, roofing, hardware, paint, and screening. The former skills of these families in masonry and the laying of adobe have been expanded through the use of equipment in the community shop.

One of the most difficult problems at the beginning of the program in San Miguel County was that of sanitation. At that time nearly three-fourths of the families obtained drinking water from irrigation ditches; more than nine-tenths were using unimproved privies and almost half of the houses were unscreened. Classes conducted in sanitation since the inception of the program have been effective in getting the families to observe better sanitation practices. Through a cooperative plan, 12 community wells have been dug by the families and cement curbing and pumps have been installed. These wells are so located as to be easily accessible - sometimes six or more families use the same well. All except two families now have screens and sanitary toilets. These two are without the improvements because they have failed to cooperate.

Considerable construction and repair work has been done in Knox County, Ky. since the beginning of the program. Expenditures in connection with this work have been greatly reduced by using native materials and family labor. For example, one family bought 7 acres of land. Using their own labor they cut logs from the 5 acres in woodland to provide enough lumber to pay the sawmill bill. build a 4-room house, a small stock barn, a poultry house, and other small buildings; and had enough lumber left to sell to pay for the land.

Sanitary grants have been issued to 54 project families in Knox County since the inception of the program. These funds were used to provide screens, sanitary wells, and toilets. Each family receiving a sanitation grant agreed to provide some sanitary means for the disposal of waste water. Methods used varied from the use of a large bucket covered with a screen to the installation of homemade or second-hand sinks. Fifteen other families who did not receive grants on their own initiative have built sanitary toilets. None of the families had sanitary toilets at the beginning of the program.

The farm and homestead buildings of most of the project families in Thurston County, Wash., were inadequate and in a poor state of repair at the beginning of the program. All but three families have been able, through the use of Farm Home Improvement loans, native materials and family labor either to construct new farm and home buildings or to substantially improve those already existing. All project families in this county now have a safe water supply, screens, and sanitary privies, whereas only about 40 percent had these facilities before participation in the program.

In Reynolds County, Missouri, 10 families have either repaired, remodeled or built new dwellings during the last year. This work was done by the families themselves through exchange of labor and the help of the farm supervisor. Construction costs were kept at a minimum by utilizing native or salvaged materials and buying roofing and hardwares cooperatively.

Most of the project families in Laurens County, Ga., formerly were unable to build even very simple items. Until the last year chicken brooders were built by vocational classes or by a carpenter. During the year the families gathered in small groups and built their own brooders. Native pine poles have been used in building chicken houses and smokehouses; the pine needles or straw have been utilized in covering hogpens and chicken houses and in lining hen nests. A safer and more healthful way of living also has been provided for these families

through the installation of pumps, screens, and sanitary toilets. These facilities were unknown by the families before their participation in the program.

As most of the project families in Oglethorpe County, Ga., are tenants, it has been difficult to make a great deal of progress in improving farm and home buildings. Families who have long-time leases have taken the lead in making improvements. Some have used slabs cut from native timber to build chicken houses and garden fences.

However, despite difficulties due to tenure outstanding progress has been made in providing more adequate sanitation facilities. Before coming into the program, 90 percent of the project families in this county were without screens, 96 percent had unsafe and unprotected wells, and 69 percent were using unimproved privies. Now all have screens, properly enclosed wells, and sanitary privies.

In Mercer County, W. Va., native rock has been used to underpin houses, build walls, construct cellars, and enclose springs. Poles and logs cut from the farms have been used to build storage and chicken houses, underpin dwellings, and erect fences. In a number of cases additional rooms have been built from logs daubed with mud or clay. As a result of the environmental sanitation program, put into operation in this county during the 1939-40 crop-year, 93 percent of the project families now have sanitation units (screens, enclosed wells with pumps, and sanitary toilets).

Native timber has been used in most of the construction activities carried on in Grayson County, Va. Storage houses have been built from dead chestnut logs and stone. For example, a loan was made to a family of 10 who at the time they came into the program had only about half enough jars to can sufficient food for winter use and no storage space to prevent those that were filled from freezing. Plans were made for more jars and for the husband to build a storage house with materials to be furnished by the landlord. On days when he could not work in his crops, the tenant and his son dug a space in the hill near the house. They then cut dead chestnut trees from the wood lot, dragged them to the building site, and split them. The back and side walls of the storage house were made from these logs; the front was built of field stone and clay. Home-split shingles were used to construct the roof. Old lumber found on the farm was used for the shelves and door. Needed nails were drawn from the old lumber. While the operator and his son were building the storage house, the homemaker and the daughters were filling jars with food. In 1940, only 402 quarts were canned, whereas in the fall of 1941 870 quarts of food were canned more dried fruits and vegetables were stored than ever before.

All project families in Grayson County obtain their water supply from springs. Only 10 of the 48 springs used by these families are properly enclosed. A number of the families are still without screens, and seven still have either unimproved toilets or none at all. Families participating in the experimental program in this county have been handicapped in obtaining sanitation grants because they have been compelled to abide by standard-loan procedure which does not permit the issuance of grants in counties that have no health department. Thus, what progress

has been made has been on an individual basis and most of the families have not had sufficient funds to provide needed materials.

Outstanding progress has been made in improving buildings in Beltrami County, Minn. During the period 1939-42, a total of 13 houses and 21 barns have been built. Carpenters were hired to help with the construction of only 5 of the houses and 7 of the barns. The cost of building and repair work has been greatly reduced through the use of native materials and family labor. For example, one family whose house was destroyed by fire in May 1941 moved into a nearby garage. The father gave up a log-sawing job and with the help of his three young sons started digging a basement and cutting logs for a new house. Regular farm activities, including the cultivation and harvesting of crops, were not neglected. Much of the work was done in the evenings after the days work in the field had been finished. By October the house was nearly enough completed for the family to move in. This 26' by 30' frame house, with a basement, shingle roof, and plastered interior, is estimated to be worth at least \$2,000. The total cost to the family was only \$753. Lumber, nails, electric wiring and fixtures, paint for interior and exterior, kitchen cupboards, storm windows, screens, and a cistern were included in the cost. Another borrower was paid \$5.20 for one day's work in building the chimney; all the other work was done by the family.

Another Beltrami County family built a five-room house with a full basement and brick chimney for only \$700. A construction engineer has estimated the value of this house to be \$2,000. Hired labor was used only one day. Seven additional days' help was obtained by exchanging labor with relatives and friends.

Barns also have been built at a much reduced cost by using family labor and native materials. One family used 9,000 feet of lumber processed from logs cut from the farm to build a frame barn. It has a concrete foundation, hay track and slings, and cedar shingle covering. It is valued at \$1,400, but the total cost to the family was \$390.

Many of the families in Beltrami County formerly had to haul water from their neighbors' farms. Others who had wells did not have enough water to care for their increase in livestock. Getting an adequate and safe supply of water is a problem as most of the wells must be dug too deep to be done by hand and the cost of having them drilled is very high. The average cost of the 19 wells that have been machine-drilled has been \$192. Considerable progress has been made in obtaining adequate screens for project homes. At the beginning of the program, only 3/5 of the houses were screened; now all are screened.

As improvements have been made throughout the entire project area, families have shown evidence of becoming aware of the value and need for a better way of living. One mother said, "It's funny how a body sometimes has to climb up and out of reach of danger before they can see it and be saved. Now when I look back I wonder why we didn't all be sickend to death eating such trash and living like pigs crowded in a pen."

GROUP ACTIVITIES HELP GET THE JOB DONE

Supervisors in all counties have agreed that group activities have done more to stimulate production, create unity, and effect human adjustments among the project families than has anything else. Neighbors who were not on speaking terms are now working together, accomplishing tasks that would have been impossible through isolated and individual effort. Frustrated individuals, finding a way through participation in group action to satisfy their inherent craving "to be" and "to belong" have developed into respected and responsible community leaders.

Group meetings and discussions have been the foundation of practically all community activities in San Miguel County, New Mexico. The successful execution of farm and home plans has been achieved primarily through group meetings.

Through indirect leadership, the supervisors have worked quietly behind the scenes providing needed inspiration and guidance for the development of direct leaders among the families themselves. The role of the supervisors has been chiefly to suggest or to point out various activities and to explain how they might be put into operation. The choice of activities undertaken and the ways in which they are put into practice is left entirely up to the families themselves. Often several meetings are held to discuss thoroughly the different activities before any definite plans are made. After a decision is reached as to just what is wanted, a committee is usually appointed to see that the program is carried out.

On some occasions the families have called meetings so that supervisors might further explain points which were not thoroughly understood by the group. An explanation of how activities of a similar nature are operating in some other community is often used to clarify points on which the families are not clear. For example, a copy of bylaws, written in Spanish for another livestock association, was obtained for them to study as a guide to forming their own association. Various charts, schedules, pamphlets, etc., are placed at the disposal of the families to create interest and stimulate discussion.

The families are proud of the community house which was built through their own cooperative efforts. Working together to build this prized possession has unified the community and made possible other cooperative activities which have broadened the vision of these families. It has also stimulated faith in their ability to solve their own problems. They no longer refer to the project as a Government program; instead it is now termed, "our program."

The livestock association, organized by the families earlier in the program, has been so successful that it has led to the development of other cooperative activities during the year. A purchasing and marketing association organized recently has been a great help to the project families. Ten families pooled their funds and built two laundry rooms near cooperative wells dug by them at the beginning of the program. Each room is equipped with a washing machine which is used by five families. Since these rooms have been set up, other families have expressed a desire to participate in a service of this type. This change of attitude is significant in that it indicates that a good many of the families cannot visualize the benefits to be derived from improved farm

or home equipment until they have had an opportunity to observe the equipment in use.

Everyone has cooperated in carrying out a school lunch project which was started during the year. Each family contributed a row of vegetables. The vegetables were canned by the girls' club under the supervision of the health-management supervisor. In addition to the garden produce, sufficient funds were collected to provide a variety of other foods. Tables and benches used in the lunch program were made in the community workshop. Two men used a cord of wood to supply fuel.

Seven families pooled their funds and bought a cooperative rake; six others bought a harrow in the same way. To pay for the harvesting of wheat all 14 families contributed \$5 each. They were reimbursed by receiving a like amount of milling service free of charge.

Interest in the community house and shop has increased during the year. A good many more families now use the tools at the shop to repair furniture and to construct tables, chairs, window and door frames and various other items.

About a year ago the diversion dam which served extensively the needs of the irrigated acreage in the village (project area) was washed away. A school facility program to repair the dam was suggested. Several meetings were held to explain the program, but the families rejected the proposal and voted to reconstruct the dam themselves, building it, as is the native custom, from brush, and poles. A tractor to draw large rocks into the river was obtained from the Work Projects Administration in exchange for the use of a school site on the riverbank which belonged to one of the project families. Over 100 families in the community cooperated in rebuilding the dam.

All group action in community organization is a result of discussion meetings. An attempt to develop leadership has been made by appointing committees to supervise activities. For example, a committee consisting of three members is assigned the duty of operating work and assuring responsibility for the completion of the community house. The duty of the committee for sanitation is to see that yards, fence rows, and roadsides are kept clean. Another committee is to see that there is a date set for all members of the community to meet to clean and beautify the community. There is also a standing committee which supervises and another for the maintenance and repair of the granary, church, and school yard. An overall community committee acts in an advisory capacity. Decisions on the committees necessitate action on matters important to the welfare of the entire community. Through this method it is believed that leadership is slowly being developed. Families are now willing to assume more responsibility in the planning and execution of all project activities.

At the 1942 annual meeting of all project families objectives for the previous year were reviewed. Members of some of the project families gave a brief report as to what had been done toward carrying out each objective and whether they felt it had been beneficial to them or to the community. Special subjects assigned previous to the meeting were reported on. A visit was then made to the school. This visit was planned by the teachers who explained the various school activities. After the tour of the school had been made a midday meal was served by the project women. Objectives for the next year were discussed in the afternoon. At the conclusion of the meeting moving pictures were shown by the San Miguel Rural School Education

Project supervisors in Orange County, Vermont, feel that group action has contributed greatly to the progress made by project families. Results from group meetings are evidenced by improved buildings, better care of the home and its surroundings, more careful attention to personal appearance and care of clothing, renovation of furniture, better food habits, and improved relationships between neighbors. Families who formerly did not speak to each other are now working together and exchanging labor, equipment, and usable goods.

Methods used in putting the group meetings into operation are believed to be the key to their success. The selection of a central place for all meetings was avoided as the families were scattered over a wide area. Quite a few neighborhood groups were organized. In localities where a number of homesteaders lived on adjoining or nearby farms, it was possible to interest them in meeting together to become better acquainted and to talk over common problems. In selecting the first meeting place for each group, a home was chosen where some particular improvement had been made which would be of common interest. However, care was taken not to select the best home in the community, but rather one which was comparable to that of the majority attending the meeting. Families who were asked if they would be willing to use their homes as a meeting place were usually flattered. It gave them a certain confidence in themselves and their neighbors - usually for the first time. It also served as an incentive to have their home and surroundings cleaned up and in the best possible condition. This stimulated other families to do the same thing when it came their time to have the meeting. Some families in whose homes meetings were held wanted to serve refreshments. Realizing that the majority of the group could not afford to do this, but that eating and drinking together might create a less formal atmosphere, arrangements were made for each family to contribute their share and to provide their own dishes. This became an accepted practice which prevented families from being embarrassed because they did not have enough dishes for the group. It was often necessary to borrow chairs and to use makeshift substitutes such as boxes and benches. This, too, was a source of embarrassment at the first meetings until the group realized that others were in the same position as themselves. Overcoming material obstacles such as these has been important in successfully organizing the groups.

Considerable urging was necessary to get families to attend the first meeting. Objections had to be met and solutions offered. Some maintained they had too much work to do that they had no time left to attend. In some cases, this involved re-planning work schedules to provide time for group activities. Having small children who could not be left alone was another objection. If it were impossible for the parents to take their children with them, arrangements were made for older children in the neighborhood to care for them. In some cases, it was necessary for the man and wife to alternate attendance at the meetings. Lack of transportation was overcome by asking families who had transportation facilities to be responsible for the remaining members of the group. "We just don't want to go" was the most difficult objection to overcome and required continued effort on the part of the supervisors to find some subject of sufficient interest to secure attendance.

During each meeting, subject matter designed to stimulate discussion and in keeping with the families' own experiences and needs was presented in a simple and direct manner by a supervisor. This created discussion among the families on the subject as it applied to their own circumstances.

neighbors, these families frequently had been on unfriendly terms and were a rule critical of each other. This caused an obvious display of restraint in the first meetings. Sensing this situation, supervisors deliberately brought families who were ignored by others into the discussions in such a way as to make them feel they had something worth while to contribute. A continued repetition of this method was sometimes necessary before other members of the group would accept their participation. After a few meetings, families volunteered the use of their homes for meeting places, and personal contacts were no longer necessary to get them to attend; an announcement card was usually sufficient. These meetings have resulted in a breaking down of barriers which previously existed between the families and have developed a feeling of obligation on the part of each member to keep the group united.

In addition to the neighborhood meetings, there are meetings of all families at a public meeting place centrally located. These meetings were usually held in the evenings. Before the first meeting, a form letter was prepared which suggested that the families meet to summarize their previous year's business, develop plans for the coming year, and discuss problems common to all. The supervisors found that these families, who were meeting for the first time, soon became acquainted and worked well together. Following a suggestion made by the families a committee was appointed to provide refreshments. Each family agreed to bring their own sandwiches. It was the committee's responsibility to supply coffee. This arrangement worked well, and the families appeared to enjoy this type of meeting. Project families participating in these groups have been sufficiently interested in the programs at their meetings to discuss them outside. As a result, a number of farm families who are not FSA borrowers have asked to be included. The training and experience gained by families through participation in the discussion groups have served as an excellent foundation for the organization of formal cooperatives.

The Orange County Group Purchasing Association which was organized in the 1940 has been used by the families in buying materials, equipment, and needed products. The association has also handled the marketing of some and other products. In addition, it has worked in conjunction with the home arts club in providing a market for woven items made at the weaving center. Some of the project families are taking active part in the administration of another purchasing and marketing association recently organized on a county-wide basis to serve all FSA borrowers throughout the area.

As a result of experience gained by taking part in neighborhood meetings and the organization of the cooperative services, the project families now possess the confidence and ability to handle a larger share of the programs.

When the cooperatives were first organized, parliamentary procedure was handicapped by a lack of confidence on the part of the officers who had to use a written outline as a guide. Each step was usually referred to the supervisors before being discussed. However, as the meetings continued and as the officers became familiar with the business procedure they were able to eliminate unnecessary conversation among members and keep to the subject under discussion. The progress they have made was clearly demonstrated at the second annual meeting of the Orange County Group Purchasing Association. This entire meeting was efficiently handled by the officers and members without any assistance from the supervisors.

Given an opportunity to develop his potential leadership abilities, the borrower for whom formerly no one was willing to say a good word is now the director and president of the county-wide purchasing and marketing association. From the beginning, he displayed much interest in the group activities and took an active part in the discussions. Before long it was evident that he possessed outstanding leadership abilities. Recognition of his ability by other members of the group was evidenced by the fact that he was selected as one of the two delegates chosen from each group to attend a county-wide meeting for the purpose of discussing the organization of a purchasing and marketing association. He took active part in the discussions. Before the meeting adjourned, the group voted to elect a committee of five to act as a temporary committee until a formal organization could be effected. That this borrower had shown ability to express himself and create a favorable impression was again evidenced by the fact that he was the first to be selected to serve on the committee, which in turn appointed him chairman. At a later meeting, he was elected to serve as an incorporator of the organization, and at the annual meeting he was elected president and director of the association.

In one town where a general meeting was held by the townspeople to select a committee for the victory garden campaign, three projects were taken up in order to canvas the town. This was a responsibility no one would have thought of delegating to them before their participation in the group and their cooperative activities. The children that have been taken in for training in the village are further exemplified by an example in which they act as village health officers in town, community, and national organizations. They have a large variety of duties such as being a member of the village committee, Secretary of the Democratic Town Committee, Master and Lecturer of the Green Nutrition Leader of the Home Demonstration Group, local 4-H Club leader, field warden, etc.

As a result of their experience in organizing three types of group cooperatives, the supervisors have reached certain conclusions as to the best methods to use in developing cooperative activities among low-income families of this type. The following quotation sets forth the procedure advised by them:

"It is essential that families understand the meaning of cooperation; therefore, an intensified educational program is necessary before any attempt at organization is made. They must realize that it is not an organization which does their business for them but one in which they do business for themselves and that it can be successful only so long as every member takes an equal share of the responsibility in its operation. The organization should be set up only after groups have had an opportunity to discuss thoroughly the problems and advantages involved. For this reason at least several months should be spent in preliminary organizational work. Even then no large amount of business should be undertaken; instead, purchases should be limited to small items while the families learn the necessary details and procedures involved in operating the business. The volume of business should increase in proportion to their ability to handle it. In this way the overhead can be kept at a minimum, and the families are not burdened with expenses out of proportion to the size of business."

THEY PROVE THEIR WORTH

Are these once needy families really making progress? Is there any indication that they are better off today than they were yesterday? What are their prospects for tomorrow?

There is not one agreement as to the yardstick by which progress should be measured. Many measure progress on the basis of economic conditions of others from the standpoint of improved levels of living. Others have concluded that a true test of progress is the degree to which security through economic solidarity is attained. Recently progress is measured in terms of any improvement which contributes to the kind of world we are fighting to create - a people's tomorrow in which the "Four Freedoms" will prevail.

Typical case histories reveal the progress these families, once unable to qualify for even the regular FSA rehabilitation program, have achieved since given assistance:

Case A. In the fall of 1938, Mr. A, his wife and 4 children were living in an unscreened and dilapidated three-room house. Sanitary conditions were bad - the well was improperly covered, there was no sanitary toilet, and waste water thrown around the door created an unpleasant odor. Surroundings were drab - the family owned nothing in which they could take pride. Their diet was monotonous and inadequate - they had no garden and only one fruit tree. Mrs. A needed medical care but could not afford it. A \$50 dentist bill incurred during the year when Mr. A was stricken with Brills fever could not be paid. The underfed, ill-clothed children could not attend school regularly - they remained in the same grade from 2 to 3 years.

This was the condition of the family at the time they were made a loan in the spring of 1939. By 1941 they had a net worth of \$321 as compared with \$132 in 1938, an increase of 143 percent.

During the first year they produced sufficient food for home use and adequate feed for their livestock. Cash income from the farm was increased from \$180 to \$532. Each year a substantial gain was made. By 1941 cash income derived from the farm amounted to \$910, an increase of 500 percent over that of 1938.

Increase in the production of food has been even more outstanding. There only 67 quarts of food were canned in 1938, a total of 414 quarts were canned in 1941. This represents an increase of 782 percent.

At present this family has a year-round garden, 2 good milk cows, a heifer, a calf, 3 brood sows, 15 shoats, 35 hens, 190 chickens, and 20 turkeys.

In the summer of 1940 a loan of \$3,840 was secured through the Tenant Purchase Program. This was used to buy 110 acres of land and to build a good five-room house, a large barn, a smokehouse, a chicken house, and a toilet.

toilet. Electric lights have been installed. The well has been securely covered and equipped with a pump which provides running water for the kitchen. The yard is well drained and has been beautified with flowers and shrubbery.

Needed medical care is now obtained through participation in a medical program. Better environment, clothing, and diet have served to improve the health and efficiency of the family. The children now attend school regularly 9 months out of the year.

Aside from producing sufficient vegetables, fruits, meats, and other foodstuffs for a year-around home supply they are now selling chickens, eggs, meat, and cream. Enough minkes were sold last year to buy a refrigerator and winter clothes for the entire family.

Teamwork among the family members is particularly significant. Parents and children alike participate in planning work activities. Each member has specific responsibilities as his or her share in helping their family to get set for themselves. The son is raising hogs to buy furniture for his room and the two girls are raising a heifer to provide funds with which to furnish their bedroom.

Case B. The case history of another family reveals that the barn they now own is much better than the two-room log cabin occupied by them at the time they applied for a loan in the spring of 1939. The estimated value of their total assets including personal belongings, at the time was only \$49. They had no garden and no livestock, not even a cow.

Given financial assistance and guidance in better farm and home practices they have worked together taking advantage of every opportunity to secure for themselves a better way of living. Working as sharecroppers in 1938, they had a cash income of only \$145. By the fall of 1941 they had become home owners and had increased their cash income to \$1,263. By 1942 they had a net worth of \$825 as compared with only \$49 in 1938. They now own 3 milk cows, a heifer, 4 sows, 17 pigs, 42 hens, and 145 chickens.

They have vegetables growing throughout the entire year in their garden. These fresh vegetables are supplemented by canned and stored food. In 1938, they canned only 65 quarts of food, whereas, in 1941 554 quarts were canned.

Next year they plan to increase their production of livestock, poultry, and foodstuffs so that a more substantial quantity may be placed on the market. These plans have been made in spite of the fact that their two older sons will no doubt be drafted into the armed forces.

Case C. The families take pride in telling of their accomplishments. A visit to many homes is likely to yield a story similar to the following:

"In 1938 we was down and out. I was a sharecropper and worked some on WPA. All we had was one brood sow, one plow stock, and four pigs.

"In the spring of 1939 I borrowed money from FSA to buy a mule, horse wagon, a weeder, a Oliver plow, a planter, a guano district of fence wire, a purebred sow, a purebred male hog, and a cow. I had 17 shoats, 3 brood sows, 5 young pigs, 2 sows to fatten next year, a male hog, a milk cow, 3 heifers, and 150 chickens.

"We had something to sell every month last year. Our crops brought us in \$210. In addition we sold \$48 worth of poultry, \$21 worth of eggs, \$15 worth of cream, \$21 worth of cattle, \$104 worth of hogs, and \$80 worth of stuff from our garden. In all we cleared a little better than \$500. I am a cash renter now and have a 5-year written lease. I have learned how to manage my livestock so as to make money. I have about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of millet and sudan grass for hog grazing. I cut the $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres into 3 patches of millet so as to shift my hogs from one to the other. Last year I raised 255 bushels of corn, three-fourths of a ton of hay, and 650 bundles of fodder. I bought a small hand mill. Then I ordered me a one-half power electric motor which I hooked to the mill. Both together only cost me about \$7. I use this contraption to grind all the feed for my hogs and poultry. I find by grinding their feed and soaking it for 24 hours and feeding as slop it is much better - the feed goes further and is better for the hogs, especially the pigs. (Authors' note: Mr. B watches his electric power meter. If he finds at the end of the month he has not used the minimum amount allowed he grinds feed all night if necessary to secure full benefit of the power to which he is entitled.)

"Last year I raised 25 bushels of potatoes, 37 gallons of syrup, and killed 5 hogs for pork. I expect to raise more of everything another year. I have already planted one-third acre of cane for syrup and about 7 acres of peas. Five acres of the peas are interplanted with peanuts. I have a nice patch of corn too. We've got sunflowers and Kafir corn planted for chicken feed. In 1938 we had a little garden that was no account. We canned only 65 quarts of food that year. In 1941 we canned 366 quarts. We had a big good garden. We raised peas, cucumbers, squash, corn, pumpkins, kale, rape, mustard, turnips, rutabagas, collards, cabbage, onions, okra, string beans, carrots, peppers, parsnips, spinach, lettuce, and radishes. We also planted three-fourths of an acre of sweetpotatoes, one-eighth of an acre of Irish potatoes, one-eighth of an acre of butter beans, one-eighth of an acre of peas, 2 acres of tomatoes, one-eighth of an acre of cane and one-third of an acre of strawberries.

"Since we've been in the program we have added to our home a new bed, a chifforobe, 4 chairs, a swing, a radio, 2 rugs, and a icebox. We paid for them by selling cream, meat, lard, eggs, chickens, sweetpotatoes, syrup, cane seed, and day labor.

"The children are doing real well in school - they never miss a day. They are lots of help - the girl keeps our record book and they both help a lot with the work."

Case D. Here is the story told by a project homemaker:

"In 1938 we farm on shares and make 5 bales of cotton. The landlord he take it all. He did not want us to plant food on the land. We had no seed, no fence - we had no cow either. We only had 6 chickens and 1 hog. We had nothing to eat but a little meat and cornbread. We had no knives and forks and only 1 glass plate and 5 tin ones. My oldest boy got down and could not walk. Our supervisor fixed it so we could have his tonsils taken out. Now he is fine and don't ever be sick. We have plenty of milk the whole year. We have 2 milk cows and 2 heifers. We sold 1 cow and 1 heifer last

winter. We bought one cow and raised the other. We have 3 brood sows, 7 shoats, and 8 baby pigs. We killed 2 hogs last winter - they average about 200 pounds a piece. We sold 340 worth of shoats during the winter too. We are able to raise these hogs because we have seed to raise feed for them. PSA loaned us money to buy our first brood sow and wire our pasture. I have 25 hens and 120 young chicks so we have plenty chickens and eggs to eat and some to sell. We sell some cream too. This gives us money to buy the things we need that we can't raise and a little spending money besides. We grow Kafir corn, sunflowers, popcorn, amber cane, millet, rape, velvet beans, peanuts, and cane to feed our chickens and hogs. We have a good garden the whole year through. We can have this kind of garden because we have seed, wire, and a supervisor who learned us that we can plant something in our garden every week. In our winter garden last year we had collards, turnips, rutabagas, carrots, beets, peas, onions and rape; in the summer we grow a lot more things. Last year I canned 596 quarts of food and am planning to can 750 quarts this year. Besides our good garden and the food we canned we picked 8 bushels of peas, 2 bushels of butter beans, dug 50 bushels of potatoes and made 40 gallons of syrup. We grew part of our wheat for bread too. My canning does seem so much easier since we got our pressure cooker and buy them new kind of lids. I have learned to make a good mattress. I have made 4. We can rest and sleep so much better now. I also learned how to grow new kinds of vegetables and how to cook and eat them. I learned how to can and cook a dinner in my precious cooker. I've learned to make peanut butter and how to keep a record of how much we make and how much we spend. We have a pump well and screen doors and windows and our children don't ever have to stay home from school any more. We don't worry all the time now. We all so happy now that we have a better home and a good living."

As these families have increased their income and property, improved their level of living, and contributed food and manpower to a Nation at war, their place in the community has changed. This change is described by one of the project supervisors as follows: "The progress these families have made is reflected in the change of attitude of the families toward the program and the change in attitude of the townspeople toward the families. The attitude of the townspeople at the beginning of the program was that these families were 'Government paupers'. As a result the families were not eager to have it generally known that they were connected with the program. The fact that they were able to make real progress and come back into the life of the community and take an active and respected part in its affairs has brought about a complete change in the attitude of the townspeople - they now respect these families and recognize their ability as leaders and functioning members of their community."

